

WHEREAS; gastroschisis is a condition characterized by the presence of a hole in the abdominal wall of a developing fetus, resulting in the growth of the intestines outside of the body; and

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is estimated that approximately one in 1,953 babies in the United States are born with gastroschisis every year; and

WHEREAS; the exact cause of gastroschisis is relatively unknown, risk factors such as young mothers, alcohol or tobacco use, or genitourinary infections may increase fetal development of gastroschisis; and

WHEREAS; while infants born with gastroschisis often undergo corrective surgery soon after birth, many experience serious lifelong complications, including short bowel syndrome, feeding and digestive issues, and multiple organ transplants; and

WHEREAS; it is important to recognize that the families of infants born with gastroschisis often encounter a variety of problems outside of the condition itself, such as a sense of isolation and difficulties obtaining timely diagnoses, finding appropriate treatment options, and affording the few treatments that do exist; and

WHEREAS; since 2018, the Global Gastroschisis Foundation—formerly known as Avery’s Angels—has been organizing a nationwide observance of Gastroschisis Awareness Day in honor of the founder’s son, Avery John Rauen, who passed away from complications of the condition on July 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins affected individuals, families, and dedicated advocates and organizations like the Global Gastroschisis Foundation in spreading awareness, promoting research, and honoring all those who are living with or who have lost their lives to gastroschisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim July 30 2023 as

GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 7th day of July 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State